



**Letter to the Catholic Faithful of the Diocese of Rockville Centre
From Bishop John O. Barres
Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, June 14, 2020**



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As we celebrate the Solemnity of The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi), we give thanks for the real presence of Jesus Christ, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Holy Eucharist. We ask that the Holy Spirit may ignite in us an even deeper love for the Eucharist after these many weeks of not being able to receive it. Pope Benedict XVI once wrote: “The Eucharist opens us to an understanding of Scripture, just as Scripture for its part illumines and explains the mystery of the Eucharist.” This deep formation in the Eucharist and the Word of God is one of the reasons that Catholic education is so very important for our children.

Every year, Tomorrow’s Hope Foundation (THF) gives the gift of a Catholic education to students from low-income families across Long Island by providing needs-based partial tuition scholarships. The recipients of this tuition assistance attend any one of the many elementary schools within the Diocese of Rockville Centre and are given a rigorous education in a nurturing and safe environment.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, THF is currently facing a serious threat to its mission for the upcoming school year. Our dedicated teachers are doing a masterful job in continuing to provide their lessons remotely. Additionally, many of the parents we serve have lost their incomes during this time and are faced with significant financial hardships on top of the already mounting stresses to keep their families healthy and safe. In many cases, with the continued uncertainty related to the virus, it is imperative that children are able to continue their Catholic education as it provides for the support they need - academically, emotionally, and spiritually.

We must continue to give parents the opportunity to provide their children with a Catholic education, regardless of the current financial hardship they are experiencing. For all of these reasons, the maximum scholarship award this year has been increased from \$2,500 per student to \$3,500 per student and we anticipate that the need for Tomorrow’s Hope assistance will be greater for the coming school year than ever before.

THF, like many organizations has had to cancel its traditional fundraising events which raise the bulk of the funds needed for its scholarship program. This year, the Foundation is raising its much-needed funds virtually, through the THF Stars for Students Day of Celebration. Donations from this event will allow THF to give the parents of future leaders growing up on Long Island the financial wherewithal they need to receive a quality Catholic education, the benefits of which will stay with them for life.

Please consider making a contribution to the Tomorrow’s Hope Day of Celebration, which is scheduled for Wednesday, June 24th. To do so and for more information, please visit their event website: <https://thcelebrate2020.givesmart.com> or call (516) 745-7639. Through your generosity, we can provide support for our schools and families as well as ensure a bright future for Catholic education.

Please remember... Today’s Children are Tomorrow’s Hope!

Please know that you and your family are remembered in my daily prayers and Masses.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre